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IRAQ

**PRIMARY HEALTH
CARE PROJECT**

SUCCESS STORY

More Children Receive Services Thanks to IMCI Program

USAID's Primary Health Care Project partners with Iraq's Ministry of Health to strengthen delivery of primary health care services throughout the country. The project focuses on mother and child health services in particular for the most vulnerable Iraqis, including internally displaced persons in all 18 provinces of Iraq.



Photo: USAID / PHCPI

*Mr. Ahmed Abed Aun IMCI program
Director in Al-Naser PHCC*

USAID's Primary Health Care Project (PHCP) recently trained the staff of Al-Naser PHCC on the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) strategies and the correct way to implement the program in their clinic. Many of the staff members found the training very helpful and informative. After the training, Mr. Ahmed Abed Aun, the program director in Al-Naser PHCC and his staff conducted an outreach in the community to educate the community on the IMCI program. According to Mr. Ahmed, "people in the community are now aware about the importance of child home nursing, child vaccination, child nutrition, and child sickness. The people in the community and the clinic staff are aware of the importance of healthy practice for children and the value of the new IMCI guidelines".

Health service providers at primary care facilities in many countries face numerous challenges in their day-to-day work. Diagnostic equipment and drug supplies may be limited or unavailable, making it difficult for providers to properly assess, diagnose, and treat sick children. To address these challenges, the WHO and UNICEF have developed the IMCI strategy. IMCI is an integrated strategy that focuses on promoting the accurate identification of illnesses, ensuring the appropriate treatment, strengthening the counseling of caretaker, and speeding up the referral of severely ill children to reduce death, illness, and disability of children under five.

Within a month of implementing this program in September 2013, the number of children seen in Al-Naser clinic almost doubled from 1326 to 2240. Due to USAID/PHCPI support, all children under 5 years are now routinely checked and examined during their visits to Al-Naser PHCC.

USAID/PHCP continues to strengthen delivery of primary health care services throughout the country by partnering and collaborating with Iraq's Ministry of Health (MoH), with the specific focus on mother and child health services, to improve the standards and quality of 36 "model" clinics to serve as a prototype for further national replication by the MoH.